

2002

A new look 2002 team began their first tournament of the season at Farma. The previous week they had done well in a closely fought defeat to Young Stars Soccer Academy and were looking to improve. Their first game was against Campeone, after a goalless first half the introduction of Andreas Ioannou for Arsenal saw the game's complexion change completely which saw Arsenal dominate and deservedly take the lead through the excellent Andreas. Arsenal were then awarded a controversial penalty but unfortunately Andreas struck it directly at the keeper. Things got worse for Arsenal as Campeone who hadn't had a shot on target for the whole second half took advantage of a mix-up at the back to equalise in the last minute of the game. 1-1 was the final score and Arsenal were rightly feeling hard done by but it was a promising start for a team that struggled a lot last year. In the 2nd game against Anorthosis the team was strengthened by the appearance of Panagiotis Theodorou (Theodotou?) but unfortunately another mix up at the back saw Anorthosis take an undeserved lead. Arsenal could have equalised with a couple of guilt-edged opportunities but found Anorthosis keeper in fine form. The 2nd half was a different story all together and Anorthosis were much stronger than Arsenal scoring 3-0 more goals. In the final game of the group, Arsenal came up against Apoel, with the winning team likely to qualify to the next round. Unfortunately for Arsenal, Apoel seemed to have more desire to win, coupled with some baffling decisions by the referee the first half ended a disappointing 2-0 to Apoel. It appeared that Arsenal had given everything in the first two games and could not keep up with the stronger Apoel team with 2 more goals coming in the 2nd half for Apoel without reply. Although the scorelines may not indicate it, Arsenal were indebted to the super performance between the sticks of their new goalkeeper Emiliou Economou.

2001

The 2001 team began their matches against a familiar foe, Nuevo Campo had left Keravnos winners the previous week in a friendly match and Arsenal were all out for revenge. Unfortunately the woodwork didn't agree and a total of 7 shots hitting the woodwork meant it was a very frustrating morning for Ara and his team. Nuevo Campo were 3-1 victors but had Arsenal been a bit more lucky they could have been easy winners. The 2001's were playing well but the results weren't showing it so coach Ara decided to change the formation which paid off as Arsenal ran out 7-0 winners against Farma. New players were given a chance and they excelled, something which will give the coach a nice dilemma to pick between his usual starters and the new players who came in and performed well. With that victory Arsenal qualified for the next round which will take place next Saturday.

2003

The top team of the academy last year, the 2003's started off the tournament where they had left off last season with a comfortable 2-0 win against River Plate, the goals coming from Nikolas Ioannou and Ari Jenkins but unfortunately the next 2 games didn't go the way Arsenal's 2003s are used to experiencing. The 2nd game was against Anorthosis and although Arsenal had more possession and more chances, a late goal on the counter attack from Anorthosis saw them take the 3 points with an undeserved 1-0 win. The third game was almost identical, Arsenal had all the possession but 2 goals on the counter attack from Fun Fever saw a 2nd straight defeat almost cost Arsenal a place in the semi-finals. Fortunately though, goal difference meant Arsenal were going through to the next round to face Campeone.

In a hard fought game that went to the wire, Arsenal drew 1-1 with Campeone, a result which meant the game headed to penalties. Unfortunately for the youngsters the lottery of penalty kicks didn't favour them and they found themselves having to play Farma for 3rd place. Arsenal managed to at least extract revenge for their earlier defeat in the group stages and finished a respectable 3rd in their first tournament of the season. Last season also saw the team start slowly and go from strength to strength so Arsenal are hoping the same thing happens this year too!